

SM-322  
Davis-Gross Tenant House  
Charlotte Hall  
St. Mary's County, Md.  
1875-1900

### Inventory Caption

This frame tenant house and its outbuildings have been well-maintained by its residents and owners over the years. It began its history as a small one and a half story house of only one block, having one room downstairs and another upstairs, and was probably built in the last quarter of the 19th century. Charlotte Butler Douglass, mother of the present occupant, Mrs. Frances Gross, was raised here during that period. Since then, the house has served as residence for white and black tenant families on the farm and has been enlarged and improved.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI#1903225604

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

THE BUTLER-DAVIS-GROSS TENANT HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

WEST SIDE OF RT. 5, 50 YARDS NORTH OF JCT. RT. 5 AND  
CHARLOTTE HALL ROAD

CITY, TOWN

(CHARLOTTE HALL)

New Market

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

MARYLAND

COUNTY

ST. MARY'S

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

MR. J. BRIAN DAVIS

Telephone #: 884-3610

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

(CHARLOTTE HALL) New Market

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MARYLAND 20622

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. ST. MARY'S COUNTY COURTHOUSE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Liber #: CBG 30

Folio #: 4

Map 4

P. 83

CITY, TOWN

LEONARDTOWN

STATE

MARYLAND

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

NONE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☒ GOOD☐ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

According to the present occupants, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Gross, and the wife of the owners, Mrs. J. Brian Davis, this house was surrounded by farmlands before the new four lane (Rt. 5) was built close by it. Over the years it served as a tenant house for both white and black families who have worked on the farm. Near the house some of the outbuildings remain from that earlier time. According to Mrs. Gross, her mother, Charlotte Butler Douglass (born 1887) was raised in this house. At that time the house consisted of only the principal, one and a half story, post and beam frame block with one room downstairs and another upstairs. In 1917 when the main house of the farm was altered, the one story kitchen wing from it was moved down to this house and attached to the eastern gable end, converting the multi-purpose downstairs room into a "sitting room" and occasional bedroom. At that time the present windows were created either by enlarging the older ones or by cutting new openings. Plain trims with rounded edges were added around the windows and doorways. These changes enhanced the domestic comfort and style of the house.

Underpinning completely sealed the space underneath the house, and sheetrocking masked the interior, preventing an investigation of the framing members. According to Mr. Gross, most of the members are hewn and large in size, indicating that the skeleton is not balloon frame. The weatherboards, which do appear to be original, are attached by cut nails, the post-1830 type. The brick flue ascending the eastern gable end of the main block also appears to be original, there being no evidence of an earlier firebox in the interior.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Probably 1870's or 80's BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Since Mrs. Douglass was raised here, the house was not built later than 1890. But a date in the 19th century much further back than that would be speculation. The presence of the stove flue suggests that it the house was not built as a slave house or tenant house for newly freed black farmers since all oral informants as well as sites surveyed in the area indicate that these houses of black families did not have wood stoves until the 1880's or 90's. The structure could possibly have been built as a tenant house for whites in the second or third quarter of the 19th century.

The occupation of the original portion of this house with its one room down and one up shows that the tenant farmers of both races shared similar housing conditions and perhaps shared other modes of living as well due to their common economic situation.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

4/77

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Md. Commission on Afro-American History and Culture

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

20 Dean St.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Annapolis, Md.

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



511-222

BUTLER-Davis - GROSS HOUSE  
~~SIMA~~ ~~322~~

NEW MARKET, Md.

SOUTH EAST VIEW

GWM — 3/77





BUTLER - DAVIS - GROSS HOUSE  
~~STAA 304~~

NEW MARKET, Md.

NORTHEAST VIEW

GWM - 3/77